

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.
Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

Ralph C. Link, Pastor

July 26, 1970

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Prelude

*Hymn # 31

*Solemn Declaration

*Call to Worship

*Confession of Sin (page 4, 1st prayer)

*Kyrie

*Assurance of Pardon

Scripture, Exodus 3: 1-15

*Gloria Patri

*Statement of Faith (Front of hymnal)

Pastoral Prayer

Announcements

Hymn # 87

Sermon "Pioneers as of Old" Text; Exodus 3:11

Offering

*Doxology (Trinity Church)

*Offering Response (Christ Church)

*Prayer & Lord's Prayer

*Hymn # 292

*Benediction

*Throfold Amen

Postlude

* Congregation Standing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commencing next Sunday, August 2nd, the time schedule of Church and Sunday School will change to:

Christ Church, Duncannon,
Church Service 9:00 A.M.
Sunday School 10:00 A.M.

Trinity Church, New Bloomfield
Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
Church Service 10:30 A.M.

Confirmation class will be started in the fall. Any boys or girls twelve years of age or older are eligible. Will the parents or any one knowing of eligible children please contact the Pastor or the Church School Superintendent of either church so the proper arrangements can be made.

OTHER VISITORS

MR & MRS. KERR & FAMILY WELCOME

MR. KERR WILL BE SPEAKER IN CHURCH

SCHOOL

MITE SOCIETY THANKS

Mrs. L. C. ROE & Mrs. MILLER

M. VED IN ETC.

Mrs. KITNER

Pioneers As Of Old

Text: Exodus 3: 11 "I Shall be with you."

Were we to be asked the question, "Who would you say was the earliest pioneer in history?", I am sure that we would have some difficulty in coming up with an answer. During this past week I have pondered this mornings Scripture and I began to see Moses in a new light. I always knew that he was a great leader. That he must have been a cut above the ordinary man to accomplish what he did. But never did I think of him in terms of being a pioneer. But wasn't he just this? Wasn't he a forerunner of Columbus, Daniel Boone, Lewis and Clark and all the others we think of as pioneers? He must be placed in this category since what he did was every bit as adventuresome as those we acclaim as pioneers.

In our scripture we read how Moses was chosen by God. He was a simple shepherd when God summoned him. Being the humble man he was, he asked God, "Who am I to go to Pharoah and bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?" Here again we encounter a man of humility, a man who feels inadequate in the face of the task God has set before him. A man who is not ashamed to ask questions because he feels he is not qualified. When we look at the enormous task it must have been to take these thousands of people across the wilderness to the promised land, it is enough to make even the most stout hearted wince. Think of the problems that would arise during such a trek. Think of the problems involved moving a group in our much more sophisticated society today. We know that food and water are needed. We know that shelter for the night is required. And when a group starts to move out some begin to straggle and lag behind, which is a constant bother and worry to those in charge. Those of you who were in the service and in the Army in particular, can recall what happened when a long hike took place. Some fellows developed blisters after a very short time, while many others just lagged behind. Moses problems must have been multiplied many times over due to the fact that entire families were involved. This meant extra provisions had to be made for the women and children. And then think of the problems involved when Moses made what was considered as an unpopular move. No matter what he did ~~there~~ it was almost a certainty that someone would disagree. In a group as large

as this must have been it is impossible to please everyone. In any large group there are those who disagree with the existing authorities, and who claim that they could do a better job of leading. For the most part these would be leaders are just talk, but they usually cause enough of a stir to create dissention in the group. But time after time Moses was equal to the occasion and he overcame the threats to his leadership, proving each time the wisdom of God in His selection of Moses as his leader.

Then think of the route that they traveled to the promised land. The exact route is not known, but what is not too hard to figure out is that it must have been a long, hard and tough trek, since it took 40 years.

The high point of the entire journey was at the beginning when God chose Moses. And when Moses asked God who am I to go to Pharoah?, God gave him the total answer needed, "I shall be with you." And indeed He was with them throughout all of their wanderings. He watched over them constantly and even in their times of unGodliness, He was with them.

But the thing that really stands out in this narrative as in all of the narratives of the Bible is the fact that God repeatedly chose men and women who were very common. He didn't select kings or rulers to lead, He always chose people who were on the common plane. Abraham was chosen before Moses, then came David, Saul Solomon, Samuel, Ezekiel, Hosea, Amos, Saul of Tarsus, the twelve disciples, and all of the men down through history who have been the leaders have almost all without exception been very common people. This should prove to us that God doesn't care for formality. That He doesn't look to position or power, to choose His own. He selects those who are right with Him.

Did you ever think that perhaps you and I are pioneers in today's world? I believe we are, since we are living in a world that is not largely Christian. Therefore to be a Christian is to be something unique. To be something out of the ordinary. This should make us proud, but it should also make us aware of what a pioneer is and what a pioneer does. As a modern pioneer we should be looking for new worlds to conquer. New ground to be covered, and new horizens strived for. How we go about this is really immaterial. What does matter is the

fact that we be pressing onward and leading the way. This is the work of a Christian pioneer. To be leaders of others. Now many of you may be thinking,

"Well how can I be a pioneer when all I do is come to church and sit in my pew each Sunday, content to merely worship God?" The answer is that although we may feel insignificant, we don't need to be insignificant. We can be working just as hard as anyone who is a Sunday school teacher and a member of the Consistory, or a member of the choir. Now don't get me wrong that we do not need these people. Just the reverse is true, we need a lot more of them. But sometimes people who are unable to serve in any other capacity feel a sense of shame or guilt if the preacher happens to mention serving in the Church. The poet John Milton wrote, "They also serve who only stand and wait." Perhaps we should change this to read "They also serve who only sit and wait." But this does not mean to merely be content to just continue sitting and waiting. It implies a certain amount of action is needed too. We all have opportunities to pioneer for God. How often do we meet people who are in need of a boost or a lift that we can give? How many people do we meet who are unchurched and could use some spiritual food in their lives? How many people do we work with who are in need of any help we can give to them? Too often church people refrain from commenting about anything spiritual to anyone for fear of being branded as a kook. Some of the most respected men in history have been very religious and because of how they lived and acted others tried to pattern ^{THEMSELVES} after them. It takes more courage to be sure to try to tell someone of Jesus, but once you have made the first move toward doing this, it becomes easier each time. Make it a point this week to talk to one of your neighbors who doesn't go to church and invite him or her to join you next Sunday. Make it a point this week to tell someone of your God, when you encounter someone in need of spiritual food. Perhaps during your working hours this week you may have the opportunity to speak a word of encouragement to one of your fellow workers, and to tell him of the solace you find for your troubled life in church attendance. This is what we should all be doing.

We sing the old hymn, "Onward Christian Soldiers marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before." We march in our civilian parades

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carrying the banner of our nation in front. We can prepare ourselves for war and arm ourselves, but privately as individuals we do not arm ourselves for the battle of life. We should fortify ourselves with some good oldtime Bible reading, and some good old time meditation in trying to seek God's will in our lives. ^{8 / INSTEAD OF TAKING A NAP I TOOK} When was the last time we sat in the big old easy chair at home, ~~with~~ the family Bible in our laps and read some of it and pondered its meaning to us? I mean really sat down to read and not to take a snooze. This is what we need more of in our nation today. This is what we must and should be doing to become pioneers for God in our troubled world. If we have been lax in this or remiss, then we need to start today and cultivate this habit. And we also need to get the nerve to tell others of God and what He can do for man if ~~we~~ will but let Him come into his life. Let us strive to live this way and to learn more of God's way in our lives, carrying the cross of Jesus ever before ~~our~~ us as we journey into the wilderness of this world. And let us ever remember that God spoke to Moses way back centuries ago and He is still speaking to man today. And what He is saying is still the same, "I shall be with you." Let us pray.

St. John Emlenton 11:00 6/8/69

*Processional Hymn 446
*Choral Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
Responsive Reading Sel. 48 Pg. 596
In 447
Scripture Exodus 3: 1-15
*Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer
Anthem
Announcements

New Recessional. Please comment.

Offering, Prayer
*Hymn 448
Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen
*Hymn 453 (Recessional on last verse)
Silent Prayer (Seated while acolyte
extinguishes candles)
*Litlude